



County of Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

February 22, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, INTENT TO FILE A REQUEST  
FOR A SOLE SOURCE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH  
VOICE PRINT INTERNATIONAL, INCORPORATED**

**PURPOSE**

This letter provides advance notification to your Board that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) intends to enter into negotiations for a sole source agreement with Voice Print International (VPI), Incorporated. The proposed agreement with VPI will allow for continued maintenance and support services of proprietary voice print digital voice logging recorder equipment, owned and operated by the Department's Communications and Fleet Management Bureau.

**BACKGROUND**

The Department has 48 voice print digital voice logging recorders located at facilities throughout Los Angeles County. These machines are used to capture both radio and telephone transmissions. Recordings are routinely required for criminal and civil court proceedings, as well as the Department's internal investigations. These digital logging recorders contain both hardware and software that can be monitored and serviced onsite or remotely by the contractor via the Department's Data Network.

In order to ensure digital logging recorders continue to operate efficiently and effectively, they must be expeditiously repaired or replaced when problems are detected. Preventive maintenance, major repairs, and the servicing of specialized components for proprietary VPI equipment needs to be performed by a highly

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specialized and qualified vendor. The services are critical to the operational integrity of the Department's patrol operations and its ability to accurately capture and catalogue analog voice transmissions.

The services had been provided most recently via an Internal Services Department's (ISD) Business Machines Agreement, wherein VPI was the vendor providing the service. However, ISD has expressed a desire to decentralize its control of a number of specialized services, which are not utilized on a County-wide basis, among which was the servicing of the Communications and Fleet Management Bureau's VPI digital voice logging equipment under their business machines agreement. The ISD Business Machines Agreement for these services terminated on December 31, 2005. The Department is currently without maintenance for its digital voice logging systems.

The Chief Information Office has reviewed the Statement of Work and given approval to proceed.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Department has identified funds in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 operating budget to begin this service. Funding required to provide these services will be budgeted annually.

#### **CONTRACT TERM AND COST**

The term of the proposed agreement shall be for one year with options to extend the agreement for up to four additional one-year periods.

The annual expenditure of these services is estimated to be approximately \$175,000. The agreement also contains a requirement for the Tear down, Move, and Reconfiguration (TMR) of selected equipment items affected by various station/facility moves currently pending. The cost for the TMR is not expected to exceed \$9,000. The total contract sum is estimated to be \$884,000.

#### **JUSTIFICATION FOR PROCEEDING ON SOLE SOURCE BASIS**

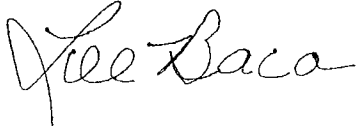
VPI has advised the Department that it is the sole source manufacturer-proprietor of the Communications and Fleet Management Bureau's Voice Print Systems. VPI asserts that it does not train, certify, license, or otherwise endorse any third party to provide support, maintenance, and/or upgrade services to their proprietary voice print technology.

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On October 25, 2005, the Department posted a request for Letters of Interest on the Department's and County websites for firms capable of providing maintenance for the equipment and software. VPI was the sole respondent. In addition, we have contacted four law enforcement agencies who are currently utilizing similar VPI systems, and who have contracted with VPI for system maintenance services. Each agency has confirmed the proprietary nature of VPI's technology and that VPI is the only source for maintenance services.

Pursuant to Board policy, the Department will engage in sole source negotiations with the vendor unless otherwise instructed by the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF